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superb witnesses of former geological conditions. "Considering that Roraima," says the author, "is only one of a whole series of such masses, the existence of some of which may not even be suspected, we can form some idea of what yet remains to be done in the exploration of this little-known part of South America."

Mr. André attempted to ascend one of these mountains, Ameha, but was defeated by its precipitous walls. The illustrations are from excellent photographs, and give a good idea of the Orinoco and Caura Rivers, the Indians, and the tangle of forest vegetation.

*The Results of the Census of England and Wales in 1901. Compiled by William Sanders. 131 pp. Charles and Edwin Layton, London, 1903. (Price, 3s. 6d.)*

A digest of the census results, compressed into less than a fiftieth part of their original bulk. All the most important tables are preserved in a very concise form, and the book is certainly a time-saver and a convenience.

*Among the Indians of the Paraguayan Chaco. A Story of Missionary Work in South America. By W. Barbrooke Grubb. 176 pp., 57 illustrations, a map, and Index. Charles Murray & Co., London, 1904. (Price, 2s. 6d.)*

The part of the Chaco occupied by these mission stations is a little north of the Pilcomayo River, where Indians killed Crevaux and other explorers. These Indian tribes bear an evil reputation. The influence of the Chaco Indian Association is tending to lead the Lengua Indians to adopt a more settled mode of life on cattle farms and to give up their roving propensities. They are not now dreaded by the Paraguayans; and the Argentine Government has been so favourably impressed by the civilizing influence of these missionaries that it has offered them three reserves in its own part of the Chaco for the establishment of similar mission stations. The book tells the story of life among these Indians and describes their ways of living.

*L'Inde d'aujourd'hui. By Albert Métin. 304 pp., and Index. Librairie Armand Colin, Paris, 1903.*

This is a study of the social conditions of India from the pen of a college professor whose earlier books had already introduced him most favourably to the public as a writer on sociological topics. He finished in India the preparation he began in the libraries for writing this book. The two great divisions of the people—the Hindus,

or followers of the faith of Brahma, and the Mohammedans, the effect upon them of the alien Government to which they have been subjected, their attitude towards Occidental influences and whither these great masses of humanity are tending, are the basal subdivisions of his theme. The book is not polemical, nor does it deal with hypotheses, but it gives evidence, above all, of being the fruit of observation.

The first chapter is briefly historical and geographical. Some of the influences of geographical environment are well characterized. In a chapter on the distinctive place of the Parsis in East Indian society, Mr. Métin says that, open as they have been to all Western influences, they would have made India another Japan, or at least an autonomous colony, if they had not been a very small minority of the population. Their adaptable character differs widely from that of the Hindus and Mussulmans, trammelled by tradition and conservatism.

The author then treats of the religion of the Hindus, its ascetic philosophy, superstition, castes, temples and ceremonies; the past and present of Islam, in India; the native principalities; methods of the English administration, its civil and military services and society; the educational systems, based largely on the native schools; and the condition of the people, their old and new industries, emigration, trade, and famines.

Among many facts compactly presented concerning the native principalities the author says that a third of India pertains to native princes, vassals of England, who rule over 66,000,000 of subjects—a little less than a fourth of the total population. The relatively smaller population in the Feudatory States is explained by the fact that they are largely mountainous or desert. There are 160 native States of some importance, besides many very small ones, as, for example, a little district near Simla, which has only 170 inhabitants. The largest native State is Haidarabad, which is three-fifths as large as France, with 11,500,000 inhabitants. The native sovereigns are under the control of English Residents, have foreign relations only with England, and their soldiers are deprived of modern weapons, excepting a few regiments, about 20,000 men, in the northwest frontier States. These regiments are at the disposition of England, under the name of Imperial Contingents. The native rulers, in theory, are masters of their own internal affairs, but, in fact, they follow the advice which the Imperial Government freely gives them. Their institutions are coming, more and more, to resemble those of the British provinces.

On the whole, the native rulers accept the British tutelage, and lose no opportunity to show their fidelity to the Imperial Crown. The book is illuminative, and interesting from cover to cover.

*Japan To-Day.* By James A. B. Scherer. pp. 322, and 28 photographs. No index. J. B. Lippincott Company, Philadelphia, 1904. (Price, \$1.50.)

The author was a teacher of English for over four years in the Government school at Saga, southern Japan, and is now President of Newberry College, S. C. His book is not an ordinary work of travel. It is filled with the impressions of an acute observer during a long residence in Japan. It is neither a history nor a connected description of Japan, but the light it throws on the country and its life is most welcome, and much of it is such as is seldom derived from books of travel. The author tells how Japan and the Japanese looked to him as he went on his bicycle tours, and as he saw life in the street, the field, the school room, and the home. He writes of the home life, the language, the sermons of the Buddhist priests, the students, traits of Japanese character, and many other aspects in a fascinating style and with a wealth of anecdote and reminiscence, all written with abundant humour. Two or three condensed quotations will illustrate the information given and the author's way of imparting it. Here are a few remarks on the Japanese language:

The Japanese language ignores both number and gender. The verb is always the same whether as predicate for the first or second or third person. *Shokusuru* means I eat, you eat, he or she eats, we eat, and they eat. It is as unchangeable as the notorious laws of the Medes and Persians. It does not recognize personalities; it has no person. . . . It is bad enough for the verb to be so impersonal and so numberless, but the deficiency is the more apparent in the noun itself. *Inu* means either dog or dogs; *boshi* may denote one hat or a dozen; only where it is absolutely necessary are words suffixed to signify plurality; in all other cases one must judge from the context whether the subject be single or otherwise. And so it is with gender.

The author says there are no declensions in this queer language; neither is there any article. Another characteristic is the complicated system of honorifics, which is a source of annoyance and perplexity to the student. Dr. Scherer turns a few simple phrases into their exact Japanese equivalent, with these results:

"Please excuse me," becomes "august excuse deign"; "go slowly," "augustly leisurely going deign to be"; "I feel bad," "bodily state bad is"; "good morning," "honourable earliness is."

The conclusions which the author draws from these and other examples are that honorifics complicate the language almost hopelessly and that it is impossible to translate English literally into